

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
22 January 2004 (22.01.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/007028 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A62D 3/00**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/CA2002/001799

(22) International Filing Date:
27 November 2002 (27.11.2002)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/395,316 12 July 2002 (12.07.2002) US
60/404,147 19 August 2002 (19.08.2002) US

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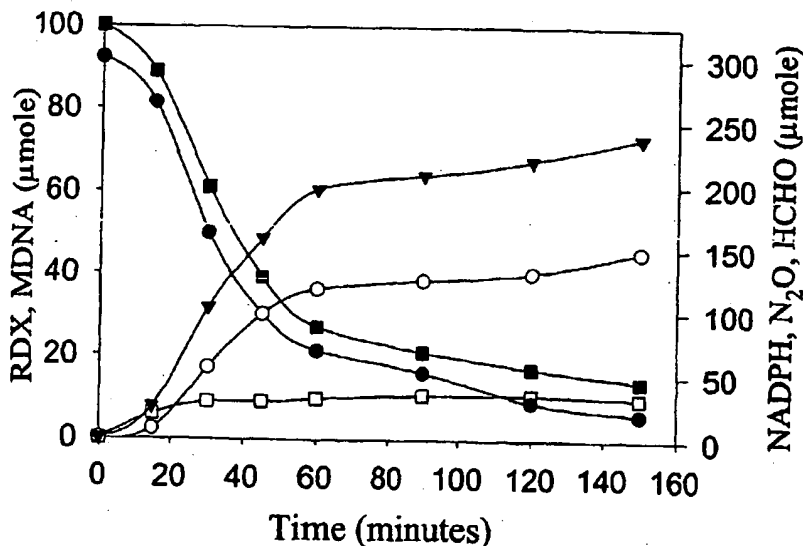
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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,
MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE,
SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US,
UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **DEGRADATION OF CYCLIC NITRAMINES**



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a process for degradation of nitramines. The explosives RDX, HMX, CL20 and tetryl are exemplary nitramines that may be degraded according to the invention. These nitramines may be attacked chemically, biochemically or biologically. The invention may be used to degrade such explosive compounds that may be present in soil. Cyclic nitramines may be attacked at bonds so as to cause ring cleavage, which in the presence of water can lead to hydrolytic decomposition and mineralization. To prevent the decomposition reaction from undergoing sequential reduction to the corresponding nitroso derivative (nitrosation being reduction of -NO₂ to -NO), two routes may be taken: (a) attack on an -N-NO₂ bond (denitration) followed by hydration or (b) attack on a CH₂ bond (α-hydroxylation) to form unstable carbinol prior to cleavage and decomposition. The invention may be used to remediate soil and water contaminated with these explosives.

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